

Children Of Disobedience

Eph. 5:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Children of disobedience disobey God.
 - 1. “Children” or “Sons” often means followers. (cf. v.1, John 8:44)
 - 2. “Disobedience” is to ignore, reject or rebel against authority.
- B. Children of disobedience become such by any one of four ways:

Discussion:

I. By Disregarding The *Assignments* of God.

- A. Received in three ways:
 - 1. By direct command. (cf. “This do...”–1 Cor. 11:25).
 - 2. By approved examples (Phil. 3:17; Acts 20:7).
 - 3. By necessary inference. (cf. Mt. 22:32; Heb. 8:8,13; Gal. 3:16; “every first day”).
- B. Sometimes *rejected* (Jonah, Jas. 4:17).
- C. More often *neglected* (Judges 5:23; Heb. 2:3).

II. By Disregarding The *Restrictions* of God.

- A. Clearly expressed. (cf. Gen. 3:3; Eph. 5:18; Mk. 10:9).
- B. General principles.
 - 1. Need for positive Divine authority in religion. (Lev. 10:1; Matt. 15:8-9, 13,14; 2 John 9-11).
 - 2. Sufficiency of the Scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3).
 - 3. Generic and specific authority.
 - 4. Parallel linkage. (Gal. 5:21 “and the like”)

III. By Disregarding The *Options* of God.

- A. God neither commands nor forbids certain things. (Rom. 14:3-4,14,22; 1 Cor. 8:8,9).
- B. God neither commands nor forbids marriage.
 - 1. We have no right to forbid it nor demand it.
 - 2. Once one opts to marry he must follow God's laws in it.

IV. By Disregarding The *Order* of God.

- A. Lawbreakers must be punished, but by whom? (Rom. 12:17-19; 13:1-4).
- B. Christians must eat common meals but where? (1 Cor. 11:22,34).
- C. All deserving needy should be cared for, but by whom? (1 Tim. 5:16).
- D. We must provide food, clothing and shelter, but what comes first. (Matt. 6:33)
- E. Women should teach (Tit. 2:4), but under what circumstance? (1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:35).
- F. May do many morally right things, but not religiously. (Mt. 15:1-9).

Conclusion:

- A. Are we obeying God in his assignments, restrictions, options, and order?
- B. Are we children of disobedience or obedience?
- C. Why not begin obedience by obeying first principles now?